

EMERGENCY MESSAGE TO U.S. CITIZENS

Earthquake in Northeast India

The United States Geological Survey reports a 6.8 earthquake in the northeastern Indian State of Sikkim, near the Nepal border, on Sunday, September 18, 2011. The epicenter was approximately 125 kilometers from the nearest Bangladeshi border and approximately 450 kilometers from the city of Dhaka. The earthquake was felt as far away as Chittagong, Bangladesh.

At this time, there are no reports of casualties or major damage in Bangladesh. When traveling, be watchful for downed power lines and damaged roads, especially in northwest Bangladesh.

Aftershocks are possible after an earthquake. The American Red Cross recommends that in the event of aftershocks, persons should move to open spaces away from walls, windows, buildings, and other structures that may collapse, and should be alert to the danger of falling debris. If you are indoors, DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON: If possible, seek cover under a sturdy desk or table, hold on, and protect your eyes by pressing your face against your arm. If there is no table or desk nearby, sit on the floor against an interior wall away from windows, bookcases or tall furniture that could fall on you. Avoid damaged buildings and downed power lines. Great care should be used with matches, lighters, candles, or any open flame due to the possibility of disrupted gas lines.

If at any time you are in need of assistance, please contact the Embassy's American Citizen Service unit. Our email address is DhakaACS@state.gov, and during business hours our telephone number is (880) (2) 885-3805. Emergency American Citizens Services are available at all times. The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka can be reached at (880) (2) 885-5500 for after-hours emergencies. For after-hours emergency services please press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

U.S. citizens resident or traveling in Bangladesh are urged to enroll with the U.S. Embassy or nearest U.S. Consulate via the Department of State's on-line enrollment service through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) located at <http://travel.state.gov>. Travel enrollment allows the Department of State to contact its citizens in the event of an emergency and to provide up-to-date safety and security information. Enrollees wishing to receive such information must provide an e-mail address with their enrollment. All enrollees are urged to provide complete contact information and a departure date when signing up on-line.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, Travel Warnings, and health-information resources can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers in other areas by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

American Citizens Services

U.S. Embassy

Dhaka, Bangladesh